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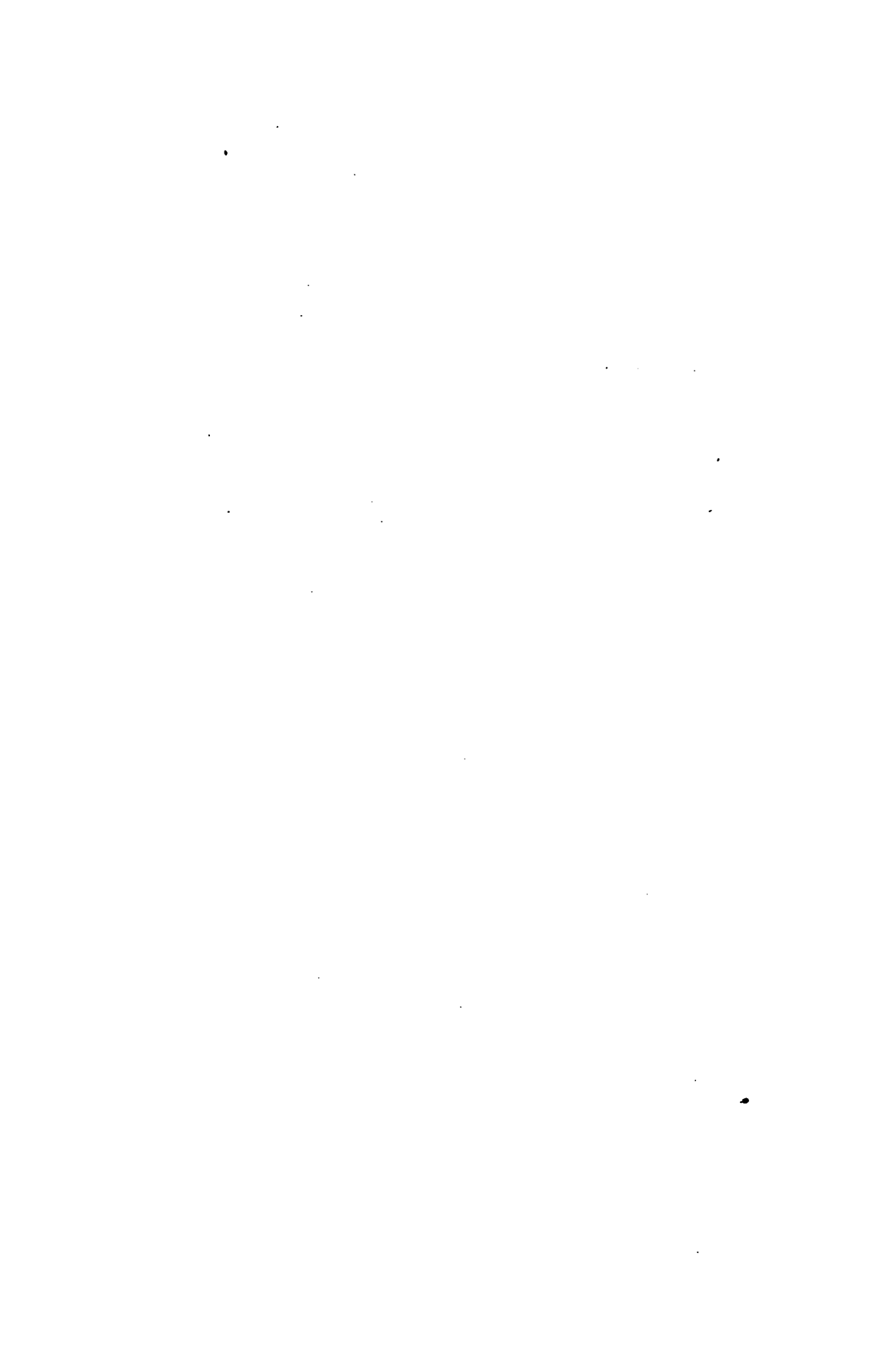




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BRIEF MEMOIR

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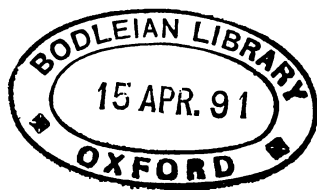
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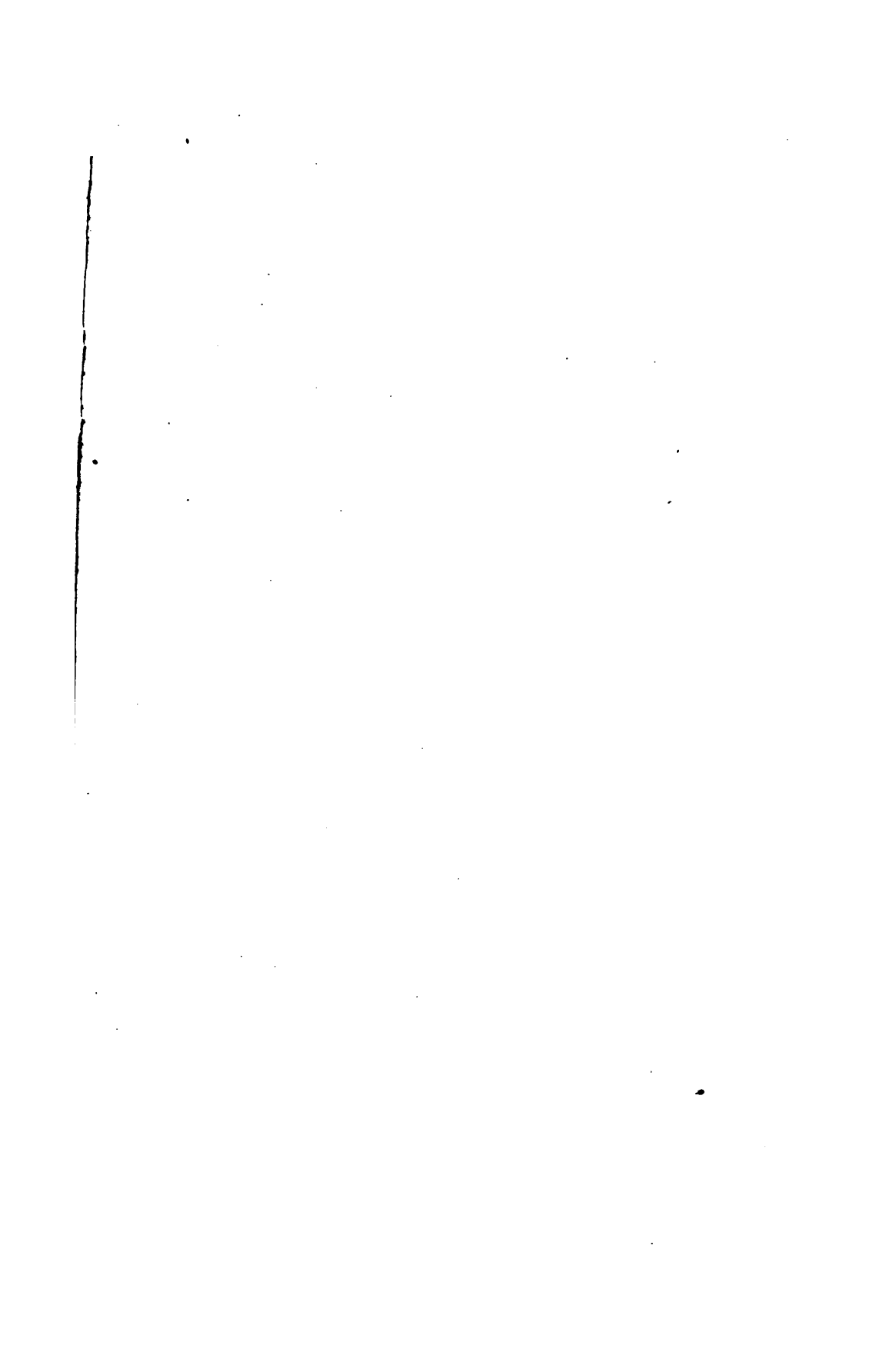


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BRIEF MEMOIR

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Dr. Geo. H. Gay,

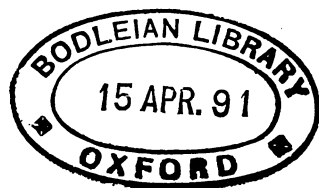
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H. C. 1852.

1879.



genius, his wonderful judgment, his quick insight into character, and the glorious cunning of his hand, that when he came to graduate, only one question was put to him, viz—

“GAY, DESCRIBE THE HEART,”

and the reply being given, with force, as all his replies were given, with beauty, clearness, and grace, he was immediately recommended for a medical degree. This was in 1845.

After receiving his degree, he started for Paris, where he remained for two years, devoting himself to study in the most famous medical schools of that city, and acquiring a fund of massive knowledge that laid a rich foundation for his great reputation.

On his return from Europe, in 1847, he was chosen one of the Physicians and Surgeons of the Boston Dispensary, but as he found that the office cramped his power, and exposed him to great dangers, having once nearly lost his life by a fever contracted on a visit to a poor patient, soon relinquished the position, and gave his whole time to personal practice, and from this moment, he commenced to rise in public reputation, and at last he stood at the head of his profession! Wonderful stories could be told of successful operations that he performed such as all other Doctors refused to undertake, and one striking instance has been given of a patient apparently bleeding to death, whose case had been given up as fatal by some of the most eminent physicians of Boston, and whose life was saved as soon as Dr. Gay was called, although young Gay always modestly refused any credit for the cure, and used to say that it so happened the man recovered at the time he was placed under his care.

In 1855 he was elected one of the visiting surgeons of the Mass. General Hospital, and it must be remembered that an appointment of this kind was only conferred upon those generally considered to possess the most preeminent talents, and Gay was then only thirty years old! T

fact is sufficient to show at how early an age this wonderful man reached by the confession of the public, the highest point of professional success. Even previous to this time, he had been appointed a Teacher in Anatomy, in the "Tremont Medical School," and had there given full proof of his rare powers.

In the department of Tracheotomy, it has been confessed by one of the most celebrated French Physicians, that Gay deserved to be classed amongst the leading physicians not only of America, but of Europe, and it is certainly one of the most pleasant things to be remembered, that so many children have been relieved, by his daring to undertake an operation that older men had looked upon as almost impossible, except as a preparation for death; and how many anxious Mothers have blessed his name, as their dear little ones have found breath through his skilful hand!

After the bloody battle of Antietam, Dr. Gay rendered valuable services at Washington, in the Hospitals, and on his return, contributed to the "Medical Journal," a most splendid article on the treatment of wounds, and this able exposition attracted universal attention.

November 21st, 1855, he married Elizabeth Greenough Lewis, daughter of his former teacher Dr. Winslow Lewis, and had five sons, three of whom are now living, and the eldest son is following his father's steps, in the Harvard Medical School, having now entered his second year.

In the sick room Dr. Gay was a benediction, not so much for what he said, nor for what he did, *as for what he was*, for he always had a smile, and his sympathies were great, and he was as gentle as a child, and almost by a glance, he could take in the patient's situation, and his noble heart made all the sick ones better as soon as they saw him.

For about a year before he died, he was quite feeble, and for

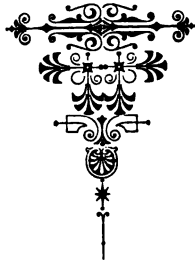
awhile gave up practice, but at the time of his death, August 12th, 1878, he had resumed work, and on that day, he was unusually bright and happy and when he went away it was "in the twinkling of an eye."

He was visiting his patients during the day, and receiving friends in the evening, and not till nearly eleven o'clock, did he complain of illness and hardly had he spoken, and called his son, when that son held the lifeless body of his dear Parent.

His Funeral took place on August 15th, and the services were conducted by the Revs. John F. W. Ware, and C. D. Bradlee. Mr. Ware made an address, and read selections from the Scriptures, and Mr. Bradlee read an original poem, offered "prayer," pronounced a benediction.

At the grave the services were wholly conducted by Mr. Bradlee, and the body was deposited in Mt. Auburn.

The different papers of the day were filled with eulogies of the deceased, and there seemed to be an universal expression of deep sorrow, and everybody felt that a great and useful man had departed.



Rev. Caleb Davis Bradlee, D.D., Ph.D.

Born February 24, 1831.

Chauncy Hall School, 1836 - 1848, with the exception of a few months when he was a pupil of Rev. Richard Pike of Dorchester.

Harvard University, 1852. A.M. H.U. 1855.

D.D. Galesville University, Galesville, Wisconsin, 1888. Ph. D., G. U. 1889.

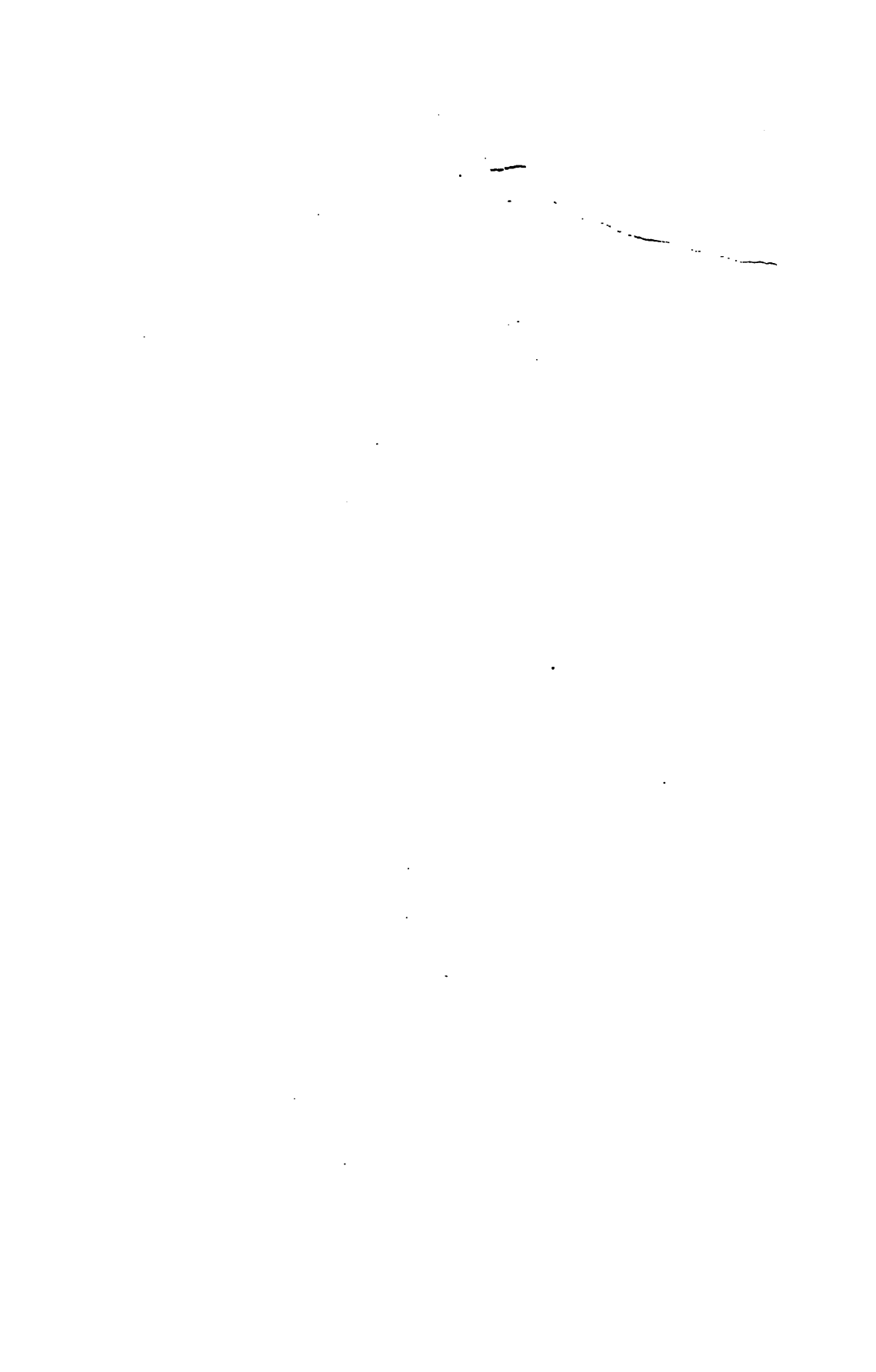
Dr. Bradlee is the son of the late Samuel and Elizabeth Davis (Williams) Bradlee, and grandson of Nathaniel Bradlee, one of the so called "Indians" who threw the tea into the Boston Harbor, and great-grandson, on his mother's side of Hon. Caleb Davis, the first Speaker of the House of Representatives of Mass. after the new Constitution.

He has been the Pastor of the following Societies, viz. ; Allen St. Congregational Church, Cambridge, Mass. 1854-1857. Church of Our Father, East Boston, pro. tem. 1861-1864. Church of the Redeemer, Boston, 1864-1872. Christian Unity Society, Boston, 1871-1875. Church at Harrison Square, 1876-1890. New Church, Norfolk Street, Dorchester 1890-.

He has been chosen a member of the following Societies: Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen, Denmark; Royal Academy of Heraldry, Pisa, Italy; Clarendon Historical Society, Edinburgh, Scotland; Society of Science, Letters, and Art, London, Eng and the following Historical Societies in the United States: New England, Rhode Island Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Chicago, Iowa, Wisconsin, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Kansas, Minnesota, Old Colony, Dedham, Long Island, &c.

He is the author of three series of Poems, Sermons for All Sects, &c.

Mentioned in Drake's American Biography, Osgood's New England, Nason's Gazetteer of Massachusetts, Johnson's Encyclopaedia, and Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography.



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